

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:STESCUDERO

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R 132309Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

S E C R E T STATE 008440

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, MO

SUBJECT:MEETING BETWEEN DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MULCAHY
AND MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR BOUTALEB, JANUARY 8, 1976

1. AT SUGGESTION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR NEA ATHERTON,
MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR BOUTALEB RECEIVED BRIEFING FROM
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AF MULCAHY ON SUBJECT OF
ANGOLA, JANUARY 8, 1976. SUBSTANTIVE PORTIONS OF
CONVERSATION SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

2. AMBASSADOR BOUTALEB STATED MOROCCO AS A NATION IS
INTERESTED IN ANGOLAN QUESTION AND IN ALL DISPUTES
INVOLVING FOREIGN INTERVENTION THROUGH SUPPLY OF
MERCENARIES AND ARMS. HE NOTED THAT HESITANT US POSITION
ON ANGOLAN DISPUTE IS BOTHERSOME TO MOROCCO AS GOM SEES
CERTAIN PARALLELS BETWEEN ALGERIAN ROLE IN SAHARA AND
SOVIET/CUBAN ACTIVITY IN ANGOLA. HE EXPRESSED UNDER-
STANDING FOR US POLICIES OF DETENTE BUT WONDERED HOW US
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SEES SOVIET ACTIVITY IN ANGOLA IN DETENTE CONTEXT

PARTICULARLY AS RUSSIAN POSITION AS EVIDENCED BY CONTRADICTORY ARTICLES IN PRAVDA AND IZVESTIA SEEM SUBJECT TO SHIFTS.

3. MULCAHY REMARKED THAT IN LETTER TO KING HASSAN AND OTHER HEADS OF STATE PRESIDENT FORD PUT FORWARD US POSITION ON ANGOLA, NOTING OUR INTEREST THERE FOLLOWING RUSSIAN INTRUSION. PRESIDENT STATED US POLICY FAVORS REAL AFRICAN SOLUTION WITHOUT ANY FOREIGN INTERVENTION. EXCEPT FOR NIGERIA, AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE RECEIVED LETTER WARMLY AND PROVIDED FAVORABLE FEEDBACK. LETTER ALSO CLARIFIED THE FACT THAT US INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA AIMED AT COUNTERBALANCING SOVIET EFFORT TO IMPOSE MINORITY REGIME ON ANGOLAN PEOPLE. MULCAHY SAID MPLA SUPPORTED BY ONLY 25 TO 30 PERCENT OF POPULATION. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION MULCAHY NOTED THAT MPLA IS PRESENTLY WINNING ON THE GROUND, HOLDING 70 PERCENT OF TERRITORY. EARLIER ATTEMPTS AT COALITION HAD DISSOLVED AND FORCES OF 2 OF THE 3 ANGOLAN FACTIONS WERE DRIVEN FROM CAPITAL CITY OF LUANDA IN JULY AFTER CONSIDERABLE FIGHTING. SERIOUS FIGHTING BEGAN IN AUGUST.

4. MULCAHY ADMITTED THAT US SENDS MONEY AND ARMS TO ANGOLAN FACTIONS VIA ZAIRE. HE NOTED WE HAVE NEVER SENT US ARMS TO ZAIRE UNDER MAP. BULK OF ZAIRE'S ARMS COMES FROM EUROPEAN SOURCES AS US MAP PROGRAM IN ZAIRE CONCENTRATES ON TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. AS FOR QUESTION OF WHO, US OR RUSSIA, INTERVENED FIRST IN ANGOLA, AT TIME OF PORTUGUESE COUP MPLA HAD ABOUT 3,500 MEN UNDER ARMS. BY JULY THEY NUMBERED 12,000. SOVIETS TRANSPORTED HUNDREDS OF TONS OF MILITARY MATERIEL VIA CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE) FOR MPLA. THIS PROCESS CONTINUES. US ASSISTANCE, WHICH HAS BEEN RATHER ACCURATELY COVERED IN FREQUENT PRESS ARTICLES, HAS BEEN OF A MORE MODEST NATURE. NATURALLY USG HAD TO CONSIDER POST-VIETNAM ATTITUDE OF AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND POSSIBILITY OF OPPOSITION TO ANGOLAN AID FROM CONGRESS.

5. WE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA AND WERE COMPLETELY SURPRISED BY IT. NEVERTHE-
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LESS THEIR INTERVENTION WAS GRADUAL AND BEGAN WITH DEFENSE OF THE CALUEQUE DAM AND EXPANDED AS PORTUGAL BECAME UNABLE TO PROVIDE SECURITY IN THE SOUTH. IN SEPTEMBER SOUTH AFRICA BEGAN TO SEND TEAMS OF SOLDIERS NORTH TO TRAIN FNLA/UNITA FORCES AND IN MID-OCTOBER THEY CAPTURED FIRST CUBAN PRISONERS. THERE ARE NOW SOME 7500 CUBAN AND 400 RUSSIANS IN ANGOLA. THERE ARE SOME CURRENT INDICATIONS THAT SOUTH AFRICANS ARE PREPARING TO LEAVE.

6. AMBASSADOR BOUTALEB ASKED IF US POLICY IS OPPOSED TO THE MPLA. MULCHAY REPLIED THAT US DOES NOT BUT OPPOSES FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN AN AFRICAN PROBLEM AND FAVORS GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY WHICH WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT INTERESTS OF ALL AFRICAN FACTIONS IN ANGOLA INCLUDING MPLA. BOUTALEB THEN ASKED IF WE BELIEVED RUSSIAN POSITION SIMILAR TO OURS IN THIS RESPECT. MULCAHY REMARKED THAT IT HAD SEEMED SO FROM PRAVDA ARTICLE BUT NEWSPAPER IZVESTIA LATER REVERSED THAT POSITION. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT OAU MEETING AT ADDIS ABABA WILL RESULT IN CALL FOR END OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION AND COOPERATION OF ALL PARTIES IN ANGOLAN DISPUTE TOWARD RESOLUTION OF MATTER ON TRIPARTITE BASIS. IN THIS REGARD WE SUSPECT THAT OAU CHAIRMAN AMIN WOULD BE INFLUENCED BY VIEWS OF ZAIRE'S PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND HIS FOREIGN MINISTER BULA. MEETING ENDED WITH USUAL AMENITIES. KISSINGER

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